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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated December 12, 2006.

Specification

At page 1 of the specification, the paragraph entitled "Co-pending applications" has been deleted and replaced with an updated paragraph, merely to replace the US patent application numbers by their corresponding US granted patent numbers. The Applicant submits that this amendment introduces no new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103(a)

The Applicant maintains that the skilled person would have been unable to arrive at the present invention from the combined teachings of Earl and Nalder. Nalder never proposes a one-time-use reply number on his form and Earl never suggests using his system for limiting a number of faxed replies.

Nevertheless, in deference to the Examiner's objections, claims 1 and 20 have been amended to recite the specific steps described in the specification for limiting the number of faxed communications. Basis for these amendments can be found at page 54, lines 30-35 of the specification.

It is submitted that neither Earl nor Nalder teaches any of the steps (d) to (g) now recited in claims 1 and 20. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious in view of these documents.
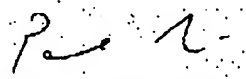
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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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